

I am new to ham radio (but have been an SWL for a many years) and am strongly opposed to this petition (RM-10785). The challenge of learning and becoming highly proficient at CW and QRP ham radio are the primary factors that are drawing me into the hobby. The voice modes seem to becoming more and more like CB every year. Few would dispute that there is much more courtesy among CW ops. Retaining the CW requirement -- especially when supplemented with an expansion of the CW subbands for Technicians -- would encourage the efficient usage of the increasingly crowded radio spectrum by a mode that, while simple, is still (arguably) the most effective way to communicate in the hobby. Regarding the argument of the CW requirement being a barrier to those who are handicapped, it would seem more logical to establish a process to simply waive the CW requirement for anyone who has a disability that makes the requirement too difficult.